



Congressman Tim Bishop

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**CONTACT: JON SCHNEIDER
(202) 225-3826**

BISHOP URGES LIRR TO CURB MONTAUK IDLING

Washington, DC— Congressman Tim Bishop, a member of the powerful House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, today sent a letter to the Long Island Railroad (LIRR), urging that steps be taken to curb idling at its Montauk Station. Idling has become such a problem that 1000 residents recently signed a petition demanding action. The Montauk residents formed the Montauk Anti-Pollution Coalition (MAP Coalition) to combat the idling problem.

“[Idling] has caused a significant disturbance to local residents and businesses,” Bishop wrote in the letter to Metropolitan Transit Authority Chairman Peter Kalikow. “I believe it is imperative that mass transit solutions pose as little a threat to the environment and local quality of life as possible. I believe the recommendations proposed by the MAP Coalition would help achieve these important goals.”

Bishop highlighted a number of solutions generated by the MAP Coalition, which would ease the idling problem. These solutions include: Ceasing all overnight idling of locomotives; stopping the use of the Montauk railhead as a layover yard for trains that are not part of the regular posted schedule of the Montauk Line; and removing all toxic material from the Montauk railhead area. Bishop noted that the manufacturer of the locomotives as well as the Environmental Protection Agency both agree that idling is wasteful and unnecessary.

“Considering that idling is unnecessary and has upset the community, I am optimistic that the LIRR will take steps to fix this problem,” Bishop said. “I know the LIRR prides itself on being a good neighbor and keeping strong community relations.”

Bishop credited the effective efforts of the MAP Coalition with helping to make him a more effective advocate for curbing idling at the Montauk Station. In addition to organizing the petition, the group created a CD for people to hear the rumbling engines.

“This noise is a real quality of life problem for people trying to go to sleep or spend quality time with their families,” Bishop said. “I think the CD will really hit home for a lot of people.”

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